



***Emerging Issues Subcommittee***  
***Meeting Minutes***  
***December 11, 2008***

**Summary**

---

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members in Attendance (12):

Richard Porter (Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Vital Statistics)

Jody Sekerak (Indian Health Services)

Officer Bobbie Moreland (Phoenix Police Department)

Phillip Stevenson (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)

Michelle Anderson (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)

Wendy Wolfersteig (Arizona State University)

David Choate, Co-Chair (Arizona State University, Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network)

Judith Fritsch (Department of Economic Security, Community Partnerships and Innovative Practices)

Dennis Embry, Chair (PAXIS Institute)

Meena Shahi (First Things First)—via conference call

Alida Montiel (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona)

Christina Cutshaw (University of Arizona)—via conference call

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members Absent (2):

Joan McNamara (Pima County/Tucson Commission on Drug Addiction and Prevention, Compass Health Care)

Wanda LeClere MacDonald (Navajo Behavioral Health Services, Navajo Nation)

Governor's Office Staff (1):

Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF)

Public (0):



**Call to Order** was made by Dennis Embry at 1:00 p.m.

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Dennis Embry asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

**Announcements**

- Jeanne Blackburn informed the members of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee that meeting dates and time for 2009 will need to be determined by the end of the meeting in order to get the meetings on everyone's calendars as well as on the calendar for the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP).
  - The group agreed that the meeting time will be changed to 1:30 – 3:30 (instead of 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.).
  - Meetings will be held the second Thursday of every month for the first quarter of 2009 in order to complete all projects that are currently underway. After the first quarter, meetings will be held every other month. Therefore, meeting dates will be:
    - January 8, 2009
    - February 12, 2009
    - March 12, 2009
    - May 14, 2009
    - July 9, 2009
    - September 10, 2009
    - November 12, 2009
- Dennis Embry informed the group that his research paper on methamphetamine has been accepted for publication in the journal *Addictive Behaviors*.
- Dennis Embry also informed the group members that his research paper on the reduction of tobacco prevalence across states due to a science-based intervention will be submitted to the journal of *Community Psychology*.
  - The Office of National Drug Control Policy will host a web-based seminar on this paper on Friday, December 12, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. EST.
    - Dennis Embry will send further details on this webinar to Jeanne Blackburn for dissemination to the group members.
- The Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) profile and county profiles are now available on the ACJC website and the larger statewide report will be available there when it is completed. Drug-specific fact sheets are also being updated with the 2008 data.
  - Phillip Stevenson is collaborating with organizations such as the Morrison Institute and the University of Arizona to share the AYS data, which will allow analyses to be conducted that have not been done previously due to time constraints and increase the value of the survey to the State of Arizona. He reminded the group that cooperative data-sharing agreements will require explanations of how the data will be used; data will not be released without clear guidelines.
    - Dennis Embry discussed the possibility of Paxis Institute and ACJC working on a cooperative agreement so that the AYS can be used for regression analyses similar to the analyses of other papers he has had



published. This would also allow a cross-state comparison as Dennis is using similar data from Oregon.

### **Update on Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group/ASAP**

- Phillip Stevenson updated the group on the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group and on the ASAP.
  - The Epi Work Group is polishing the draft of the 2008 Snapshot document.
    - Jeanne Blackburn is incorporating the comments and feedback from the Epi Work Group members and when this process is complete, will forward the document to Dr. Kim O'Connor, Director of the Governor's Division for Substance Abuse Policy, and to Melissa Lempke, Director of the Governor's Division for Community Relations. She reminded members that if they have any remaining comments, they can still forward them to be incorporated into the report.
  - A reminder that the four additional areas for 2009 have been identified. They are:
    - *Underage Drinking*;
    - *Prescription Drug Abuse*;
    - *Drug-Endangered Children*;
    - and *Media Campaigns*;
    - Phillip Stevenson informed the group that the 2008 administration of the Arizona Youth Survey included a question designed to assess youth exposure to media messages related to substance abuse.
    - Phillip Stevenson also indicated to the group that a report by the Partnership for a Drug Free America was forwarded to Morgan Hester, the staff member responsible for staffing ASAP, which outlines the critical elements that are key to media messages and campaigns to reduce substance abuse.
    - Dennis Embry indicated that he will send Jeanne Blackburn some literature on research that has been done surrounding behavioral intent to assist in the examination of the impact of media campaigns on behavior.
    - Dennis Embry inquired about whether the Emerging Issues Subcommittee should work on a short report to inform the Media Campaigns strategic focus area.
      - Phillip Stevenson and Dennis Embry will collaborate on this project.
  - Previously-scheduled events necessitated Phillip Stevenson's absence from the ASAP meeting. In his absence, Jeanne Blackburn presented on prescription drug abuse data from the Arizona Youth Survey.



### **Spotlight Projects: Children's Bipolar Disorder and Rx Drug Abuse; Focus Group Results**

- Due to time constraints and other projects, David Choate is continuing to make edits to the Rx Drug Spotlight report; he will forward it to Jeanne Blackburn when he is finished, which will require an additional week.
  - Jeanne Blackburn will send the report out to the group when David sends it to her so that the group members can review it prior to its presentation to the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group.
- The Children's Bipolar Disorder Spotlight Report will be changed to a Spotlight Report on Co-Occurring Disorders to highlight the effect of substance abuse on mental health conditions and the effect of mental health on substance abuse behaviors.
  - Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network data that informed the Snapshot report from the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group can also be used to inform this Spotlight report.
- Dennis Embry asked the group members to start to think about what report should be next for the group.
  - The group members indicated that the Co-Occurring Spotlight report should be the focus, with a Spotlight report on the Focus Group results to be next on the report agenda.
    - Dennis Embry noted that important findings of the focus group that need to be highlighted in the report are the extremely early ages of initiation and the multiple disruptions in the youths' lives.
  - Dennis Embry indicated that an interest in other states has been on the impact of the economic downturn on substance abuse behaviors, including increases in drug dealing and other associated criminogenic behaviors, and decreases in funding for programming for youth and families.
    - Once other Spotlight reports have been completed, with a goal that the Rx Drug Spotlight report, the Focus Group Results Spotlight report and the Co-Occurring Spotlight reports will be finished by the end of the first quarter of 2009, this issue may become the focus of the next Spotlight report.
    - Group members with data specific to this issue should share the information with Jeanne Blackburn so that the group can begin to think about what will be included in the report.
    - Another possible Spotlight report topic to be addressed in 2009 is inhalant use, including the finding that higher percentages of 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth use inhalants than older youth, differences by race/ethnicity and the damaging effects of inhalants on the developing brain.
      - Both AYS data and AARIN data can be used to inform such a Spotlight report.



### **Canary Survey: Finalization of Distribution Lists and Survey Questions**

- The group members discussed that they had agreed to survey the School Resource Officers as the first Canary Survey.
  - Additional data could be gathered from the Arizona Department of Education to complement this report.
  - Officer Bobbie Moreland will inquire as to the name of the association of School Resource Officers and determine when and where they meet so that this group can be approached about the feasibility of conducting a survey of its members.
    - This survey will be e-mailed out as a hyperlink to an online survey.
    - David Choate has a draft of a similar survey that was administered several years ago that he will bring to the group for a review of the questions it employs.
    - The group members agreed to share the data with the SROs after the survey has been completed.
  - Due to funding cuts, the survey will also include questions on the stability of the SROs' positions (e.g., questions to be included will be, "Have you been moved to another school district due to budget cuts?").
- Other future populations to be surveyed were discussed, including juvenile probationers, detained youth, youth in residential treatment centers.

### **Lifepath Project: Additional Monetary Data**

- Jeanne Blackburn brought a report from the Child Welfare League of America on the average cost to Arizona for cases such as the three cases used by this group to strengthen the project.
  - The group members decided that they would like to continue to attempt to get Arizona-specific data from the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

### **Call to Public**

- No one from the public was present to provide comment.

**Adjourn** at 3:00 p.m. by Dennis Embry.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF).